

NORTH FORK BY TWO TIMBER SALE

June 16, 2008 Land Board

LOCATION OF SALE:

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 16 miles northwest of Polebridge, Montana.
- Flathead County – Section 16, T37N-R22W, Section 36, T36N-R22W
- 100% Common School
- **The proposed sale is within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).**

SALE VOLUME AND ESTIMATED VALUE:

- The estimated volume is 17,214 tons (1,950 MBF) with an estimated minimum value of \$299,007.00 or \$17.37/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$3.10/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- The conversion factor is 8.82 tons/MBF.

SALE AND HARVEST TREATMENTS:

- This timber sale consists of 5 harvest units that total 539 acres.
- The silvicultural prescriptions would include seedtree with reserves, irregular shelterwood, commercial thin, and overstory removal treatments within 90-year old stands.
- The prescriptions would promote natural regeneration, retain some visual structure, and effectively manage the current issues related to fuels and fuels management.
- Approximately 150 acres would be regenerated with approximately 50 of these acres to be planted with ponderosa pine and western white pine.
- No old growth would be harvested.

HARVEST SYSTEMS:

- 100% Tractor

ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

- Approximately 0.3 miles of new road construction and 1.4 miles of temporary road construction are required to access the harvest units. Reclamation of the temporary roads will prevent continued motorized use.
- Current road restrictions will remain in place to maintain wildlife security, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and minimize future maintenance costs.
- The North Fork by Two Timber Sale Project Environmental Assessment set up the avenue for cost-share agreements with the U.S. Forest Service on roads into the several sections in the North Fork of Flathead River area. Those cost share agreements will facilitate access into this project.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ISSUES:

- Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the *Hungry Horse News*. In addition to the initial proposal being sent to adjacent landowners and special interest groups, project updates have been discussed at the North Fork Interlocal meetings. The North Fork Interlocal is a community organization of citizens and agencies within the North Fork of Flathead River area. The public, DNRC specialists, and specialists from other agencies helped identify the issues that were analyzed. The areas of concern were forest fuels, wildlife, fisheries, aesthetics (visuals), and the spread of noxious weeds.

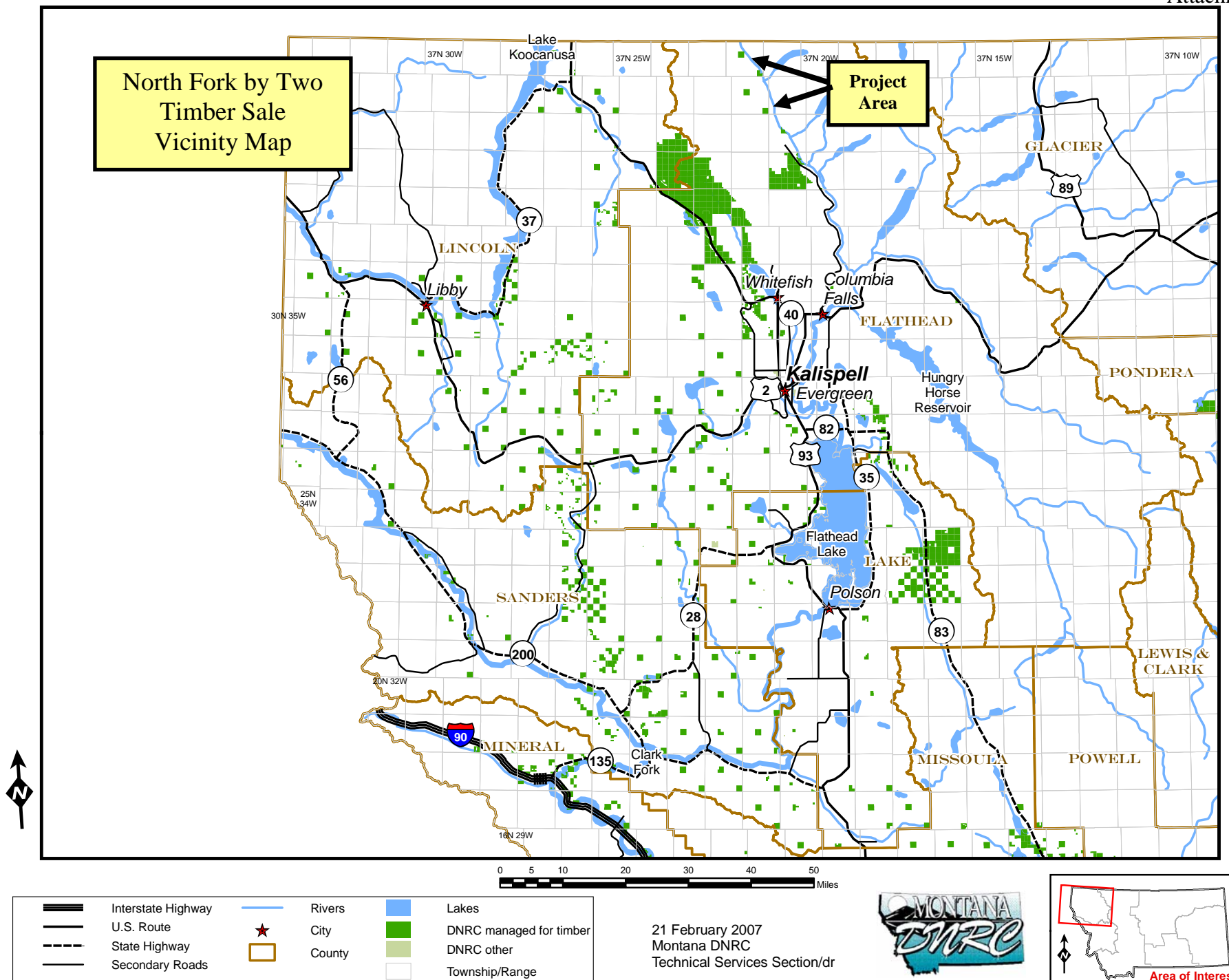
PUBLIC COMMENTS, ISSUES, AND MITIGATIONS:

- **FUELS REDUCTION** – This area has rural homesteads near the Mud Lake and Moose Creek sections that are within a wildland urban interface (WUI). This project would reduce dense fuels on

539 acres within the WUI. Firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and proposed harvest prescriptions.

- **WILDLIFE** – No permanent changes to open-road densities would occur; all harvesting activities are required to be completed within 2 consecutive years on an area currently without roads (Unit 2 and 2A). Forest connectivity in relation to lynx habitat would be maintained through riparian habitats. No changes in big game security cover would be expected since security cover does not exist within the project area. Restricted or temporary roads that are opened with the project would remain restricted to public access. Thus, minimal changes in elk security or hunter access would be anticipated.
- **FISHERIES** – Impacts to fisheries habitat would be minimized by following existing SMZ laws, Best Management Practices (BMP's), and Forest Management Rules.
- **AESTHETICS** – Existing nonmerchantable trees along open roads would be retained to provide a visual screen into the harvest units; landings would be located away from open roads. In addition, harvest prescriptions would retain a variable amount of large trees and some vigorous submerchantable trees within the harvest units. Site preparation would promote regeneration within several years.
- **NOXIOUS WEEDS** – By using an integrated weed-management plan, the spread of weeds would be limited:
 - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site.
 - All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
 - The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.

The Director recommends that the Land Board direct the Department to sell the North Fork by Two Timber Sale Project.



North Fork by Two Timber Sale Moose Creek Unit Map

Section 36, T36N, R22W

North Fork
Community Center

Unit 2a

North Moose
State

North Moose Temp












Unit 2

Unit 1

Unit 1a

Moose Creek Road (USFS 210C)

Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Timber sale unit | Owner Name |
|  Equipment restriction zone |  Forest Service/private |
|  New construction on state ground |  State of Montana (DNRC) |
|  Potential temporary road location |  Wetland |
|  Right-of-way across private land |  Streams |
|  Gravel/native surface road |  Contours |



0 450 900 1,800 2,700 3,600 Feet

North Fork by Two Timber Sale Mud Lake Section Map

Section 16, T37N, R22W

